GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:453
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
SCHOOL BUSES
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has issued a set of guidelines to all school buses plying in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether army trucks which are used as modified buses to transport school children are exempted from the Supreme Court guidelines;

(c) if so, whether these trucks are safe to transport school children; and

(d) if not, the alternative arrangements made or being made by Indian Army to ferry children in safer mode of transport?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The army trucks are meant to carry troops and stores during operations. During peace time a few of these trucks, with some modifications and without hampering their operational preparedness, were used to transport school children. However, due to an accident, involving one of the modified trucks, in Delhi on 20.2.2003, use of modified trucks to carry school children in Delhi has been stopped.

(d) Army is now hiring buses from the Delhi Transport Corporation to meet the shortfall created on account of discontinuance of modified trucks.